

HOUSE BILL NO. 219

INTRODUCED BY EATON

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT ALLOWING A TAXPAYER AN ADDITIONAL EXEMPTION FOR INDIVIDUAL INCOME TAXES IF THE TAXPAYER'S HOUSEHOLD HAS A TOTAL GROSS INCOME BELOW THE FEDERAL POVERTY GUIDELINES; AMENDING SECTIONS 15-30-101, 15-30-112, 15-30-136, AND 15-30-142, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE AND A RETROACTIVE APPLICABILITY DATE."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

Section 1. Section 15-30-101, MCA, is amended to read:

"15-30-101. Definitions. For the purpose of this chapter, unless otherwise required by the context, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Base year structure" means the following elements of the income tax structure:

(a) the tax brackets established in 15-30-103, but unadjusted by 15-30-103(2), in effect on June 30 of the taxable year;

(b) the exemptions contained in 15-30-112, but unadjusted by 15-30-112~~(6)~~(7), in effect on June 30 of the taxable year;

(c) the maximum standard deduction provided in 15-30-122, but unadjusted by 15-30-122(2), in effect on June 30 of the taxable year.

(2) "Consumer price index" means the consumer price index, United States city average, for all items, for all urban consumers (CPI-U), using the 1982-84 base of 100, as published by the bureau of labor statistics of the U.S. department of labor.

(3) "Corporation" or "C. corporation" means a corporation, limited liability company, or other entity:

(a) that is treated as an association for federal income tax purposes;

(b) for which a valid election under section 1362 of the Internal Revenue Code (26 U.S.C. 1362) is not in effect; and

(c) that is not a disregarded entity.

(4) "Department" means the department of revenue.

1 (5) "Disregarded entity" means a business entity:

2 (a) that is disregarded as an entity separate from its owner for federal tax purposes, as provided in
3 United States treasury regulations 301.7701-2 or 301.7701-3, 26 CFR 301.7701-2 or 26 CFR 301.7701-3, or
4 as those regulations may be labeled or amended; or

5 (b) that is a qualified subchapter S. subsidiary that is not treated as a separate corporation, as provided
6 in section 1361(b)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code (26 U.S.C. 1361(b)(3)).

7 (6) "Dividend" means:

8 (a) any distribution made by a C. corporation out of its earnings and profits to its shareholders or
9 members, whether in cash or in other property or in stock of the corporation, other than stock dividends; and

10 (b) any distribution made by an S. corporation treated as a dividend for federal income tax purposes.

11 (7) "Fiduciary" means a guardian, trustee, executor, administrator, receiver, conservator, or any person,
12 whether individual or corporate, acting in any fiduciary capacity for any person, trust, or estate.

13 (8) "Foreign C. corporation" means a corporation that is not engaged in or doing business in Montana,
14 as provided in 15-31-101.

15 (9) "Foreign government" means any jurisdiction other than the one embraced within the United States,
16 its territories, and its possessions.

17 (10) "Gross income" means the taxpayer's gross income for federal income tax purposes as defined in
18 section 61 of the Internal Revenue Code (26 U.S.C. 61) or as that section may be labeled or amended, excluding
19 unemployment compensation included in federal gross income under the provisions of section 85 of the Internal
20 Revenue Code (26 U.S.C. 85) as amended.

21 (11) "Inflation factor" means a number determined for each tax year by dividing the consumer price index
22 for June of the tax year by the consumer price index for June 2005.

23 (12) "Information agents" includes all individuals and entities acting in whatever capacity, including
24 lessees or mortgagors of real or personal property, fiduciaries, brokers, real estate brokers, employers, and all
25 officers and employees of the state or of any municipal corporation or political subdivision of the state, having
26 the control, receipt, custody, disposal, or payment of interest, rent, salaries, wages, premiums, annuities,
27 compensations, remunerations, emoluments, or other fixed or determinable annual or periodical gains, profits,
28 and income with respect to which any person or fiduciary is taxable under this chapter.

29 (13) "Internal Revenue Code" means the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, or as it may be
30 labeled or further amended. References to specific provisions of the Internal Revenue Code mean those

provisions as they may be otherwise labeled or further amended.

(14) "Knowingly" is as defined in 45-2-101.

(15) "Limited liability company" means a limited liability company, domestic limited liability company, or a foreign limited liability company as defined in 35-8-102.

(16) "Limited liability partnership" means a limited liability partnership as defined in 35-10-102.

(17) "Lottery winnings" means income paid either in lump sum or in periodic payments to:

(a) a resident taxpayer on a lottery ticket; or

(b) a nonresident taxpayer on a lottery ticket purchased in Montana.

(18) (a) "Montana source income" means:

(i) wages, salary, tips, and other compensation for services performed in the state or while a resident of the state;

(ii) gain attributable to the sale or other transfer of tangible property located in the state, sold or otherwise transferred while a resident of the state, or used or held in connection with a trade, business, or occupation carried on in the state;

(iii) gain attributable to the sale or other transfer of intangible property received or accrued while a resident of the state;

(iv) interest received or accrued while a resident of the state or from an installment sale of real property or tangible commercial or business personal property located in the state;

(v) dividends received or accrued while a resident of the state;

(vi) net income or loss derived from a trade, business, profession, or occupation carried on in the state or while a resident of the state;

(vii) net income or loss derived from farming activities carried on in the state or while a resident of the state;

(viii) net rents from real property and tangible personal property located in the state or received or accrued while a resident of the state;

(ix) net royalties from real property and from tangible real property to the extent the property is used in the state or the net royalties are received or accrued while a resident of the state. The extent of use in the state is determined by multiplying the royalties by a fraction, the numerator of which is the number of days of physical location of the property in the state during the royalty period in the tax year and the denominator of which is the number of days of physical location of the property everywhere during all royalty periods in the tax year. If the

1 physical location is unknown or unascertainable by the taxpayer, the property is considered used in the state
2 in which it was located at the time the person paying the royalty obtained possession.

3 (x) patent royalties to the extent the person paying them employs the patent in production, fabrication,
4 manufacturing, or other processing in the state, a patented product is produced in the state, or the royalties are
5 received or accrued while a resident of the state;

6 (xi) net copyright royalties to the extent printing or other publication originates in the state or the royalties
7 are received or accrued while a resident of the state;

8 (xii) partnership income, gain, loss, deduction, or credit or item of income, gain, loss, deduction, or credit:

9 (A) derived from a trade, business, occupation, or profession carried on in the state;

10 (B) derived from the sale or other transfer or the rental, lease, or other commercial exploitation of
11 property located in the state; or

12 (C) taken into account while a resident of the state;

13 (xiii) an S. corporation's separately and nonseparately stated income, gain, loss, deduction, or credit or
14 item of income, gain, loss, deduction, or credit:

15 (A) derived from a trade, business, occupation, or profession carried on in the state;

16 (B) derived from the sale or other transfer or the rental, lease, or other commercial exploitation of
17 property located in the state; or

18 (C) taken into account while a resident of the state;

19 (xiv) social security benefits received or accrued while a resident of the state;

20 (xv) taxable individual retirement account distributions, annuities, pensions, and other retirement benefits
21 received while a resident of the state; and

22 (xvi) any other income attributable to the state, including but not limited to lottery winnings, state and
23 federal tax refunds, nonemployee compensation, recapture of tax benefits, and capital loss addbacks.

24 (b) The term does not include:

25 (i) compensation for military service of members of the armed services of the United States who are
26 not Montana residents and who are residing in Montana solely by reason of compliance with military orders and
27 does not include income derived from their personal property located in the state except with respect to personal
28 property used in or arising from a trade or business carried on in Montana; or

29 (ii) interest paid on loans held by out-of-state financial institutions recognized as such in the state of their
30 domicile, secured by mortgages, trust indentures, or other security interests on real or personal property located

1 in the state, if the loan is originated by a lender doing business in Montana and assigned out-of-state and there
2 is no activity conducted by the out-of-state lender in Montana except periodic inspection of the security.

3 (19) "Net income" means the adjusted gross income of a taxpayer less the deductions allowed by this
4 chapter.

5 (20) "Nonresident" means a natural person who is not a resident.

6 (21) "Paid", for the purposes of the deductions and credits under this chapter, means paid or accrued
7 or paid or incurred, and the terms "paid or accrued" and "paid or incurred" must be construed according to the
8 method of accounting upon the basis of which the taxable income is computed under this chapter.

9 (22) "Partner" means a member of a partnership or a manager or member of any other entity, if treated
10 as a partner for federal income tax purposes.

11 (23) "Partnership" means a general or limited partnership, limited liability partnership, limited liability
12 company, or other entity, if treated as a partnership for federal income tax purposes.

13 (24) "Pass-through entity" means a partnership, an S. corporation, or a disregarded entity.

14 (25) "Pension and annuity income" means:

15 (a) systematic payments of a definitely determinable amount from a qualified pension plan, as that term
16 is used in section 401 of the Internal Revenue Code (26 U.S.C. 401), or systematic payments received as the
17 result of contributions made to a qualified pension plan that are paid to the recipient or recipient's beneficiary
18 upon the cessation of employment;

19 (b) payments received as the result of past service and cessation of employment in the uniformed
20 services of the United States;

21 (c) lump-sum distributions from pension or profit-sharing plans to the extent that the distributions are
22 included in federal adjusted gross income;

23 (d) distributions from individual retirement, deferred compensation, and self-employed retirement plans
24 recognized under sections 401 through 408 of the Internal Revenue Code (26 U.S.C. 401 through 408) to the
25 extent that the distributions are not considered to be premature distributions for federal income tax purposes;
26 or

27 (e) amounts received from fully matured, privately purchased annuity contracts after cessation of regular
28 employment.

29 (26) "Purposely" is as defined in 45-2-101.

30 (27) "Received", for the purpose of computation of taxable income under this chapter, means received

1 or accrued, and the term "received or accrued" must be construed according to the method of accounting upon
2 the basis of which the taxable income is computed under this chapter.

3 (28) "Resident" applies only to natural persons and includes, for the purpose of determining liability to
4 the tax imposed by this chapter with reference to the income of any taxable year, any person domiciled in the
5 state of Montana and any other person who maintains a permanent place of abode within the state even though
6 temporarily absent from the state and who has not established a residence elsewhere.

7 (29) "S. corporation" means an incorporated entity for which a valid election under section 1362 of the
8 Internal Revenue Code (26 U.S.C. 1362) is in effect.

9 (30) "Stock dividends" means new stock issued, for surplus or profits capitalized, to shareholders in
10 proportion to their previous holdings.

11 (31) "Tax year" means the taxpayer's taxable year for federal income tax purposes.

12 (32) "Taxable income" means the adjusted gross income of a taxpayer less the deductions and
13 exemptions provided for in this chapter.

14 (33) "Taxpayer" includes any person, entity, or fiduciary, resident or nonresident, subject to a tax or other
15 obligation imposed by this chapter and unless otherwise specifically provided does not include a C. corporation."
16

17 **Section 2.** Section 15-30-112, MCA, is amended to read:

18 **"15-30-112. Exemptions.** (1) Except as provided in subsection ~~(6)~~ (7), in the case of an individual, the
19 exemptions provided by subsections (2) through ~~(5)~~ (6) must be allowed as deductions in computing taxable
20 income.

21 (2) (a) An exemption of \$1,900 is allowed for all taxpayers.

22 (b) An additional exemption of \$1,900 is allowed for the spouse of the taxpayer if a separate return is
23 made by the taxpayer and if the spouse, for the calendar year in which the tax year of the taxpayer begins, does
24 not have gross income and is not the dependent of another taxpayer.

25 (3) (a) An additional exemption of \$1,900 is allowed for the taxpayer if the taxpayer has attained the
26 age of 65 before the close of the taxpayer's tax year.

27 (b) An additional exemption of \$1,900 is allowed for the spouse of the taxpayer if a separate return is
28 made by the taxpayer and if the spouse has attained the age of 65 before the close of the tax year and, for the
29 calendar year in which the tax year of the taxpayer begins, does not have gross income and is not the dependent
30 of another taxpayer.

1 (4) (a) An additional exemption of \$1,900 is allowed for the taxpayer if the taxpayer is blind at the close
2 of the taxpayer's tax year.

3 (b) An additional exemption of \$1,900 is allowed for the spouse of the taxpayer if a separate return is
4 made by the taxpayer and if the spouse is blind and, for the calendar year in which the tax year of the taxpayer
5 begins, does not have gross income and is not the dependent of another taxpayer. For the purposes of this
6 subsection (4)(b), the determination of whether the spouse is blind must be made as of the close of the tax year
7 of the taxpayer, except that if the spouse dies during the tax year, the determination must be made as of the time
8 of death.

9 (c) For purposes of this subsection (4), an individual is blind only if the person's central visual acuity
10 does not exceed 20/200 in the better eye with correcting lenses or if visual acuity is greater than 20/200 but is
11 accompanied by a limitation in the fields of vision to an extent that the widest diameter of the visual field
12 subtends an angle no greater than 20 degrees.

13 (5) (a) An exemption of \$1,900 is allowed for each dependent:

14 (i) whose gross income for the calendar year in which the tax year of the taxpayer begins is less than
15 \$800; or

16 (ii) who is a child of the taxpayer and who:

17 (A) has not attained the age of 19 years at the close of the calendar year in which the tax year of the
18 taxpayer begins; or

19 (B) is a student.

20 (b) An exemption is not allowed under this subsection for a dependent who has made a joint return with
21 the dependent's spouse for the tax year beginning in the calendar year in which the tax year of the taxpayer
22 begins.

23 (c) For purposes of subsection (5)(a)(ii), the term "child" means an individual who is a son, stepson,
24 daughter, or stepdaughter of the taxpayer.

25 (d) For purposes of subsection (5)(a)(ii)(B), the term "student" means an individual who, during each
26 of 5 calendar months during the calendar year in which the tax year of the taxpayer begins:

27 (i) is a full-time student at an educational institution; or

28 (ii) is pursuing a full-time course of institutional on-farm training under the supervision of an accredited
29 agent of an educational institution or of a state or political subdivision of a state. For purposes of this subsection
30 (5)(d)(ii), the term "educational institution" means only an educational institution that normally maintains a regular

1 faculty and curriculum and normally has a regularly organized body of students in attendance at the place where
2 its educational activities are carried on.

3 (6) (a) An additional exemption of \$1,900 is allowed for the taxpayer if the total FEDERAL gross income
4 of the taxpayer's household is less than the amount stated for THE 48 CONTIGUOUS STATES AND THE DISTRICT OF
5 COLUMBIA FOR the appropriate family unit size in the poverty guidelines updated periodically in the Federal
6 Register by the U.S. department of health and human services under the authority of 42 U.S.C. 9902(2). For the
7 purposes of this subsection (6), "household" has the meaning provided in 15-30-171.

8 (b) An additional exemption of \$1,900 is allowed for the spouse of the taxpayer if a separate return is
9 made by the taxpayer and if the spouse is a member of the taxpayer's household and, for the calendar year in
10 which the tax year of the taxpayer begins, the spouse does not have gross income and is not the dependent of
11 another taxpayer.

12 (c) ONLY TWO ADDITIONAL EXEMPTIONS ALLOWED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION (6) MAY BE CLAIMED FOR A
13 HOUSEHOLD. IF A JOINT RETURN IS FILED, TWO ADDITIONAL EXEMPTIONS MAY BE CLAIMED.

14 ~~(6)(7)~~ The department, by November 1 of each year, shall multiply all the exemptions provided in this
15 section by the inflation factor for that tax year and round the product to the nearest \$10. The resulting adjusted
16 exemptions are effective for that tax year and must be used in calculating the tax imposed in 15-30-103."
17

18 **Section 3.** Section 15-30-136, MCA, is amended to read:

19 **"15-30-136. Computation of income of estates or trusts -- exemption.** (1) Except as otherwise
20 provided in this chapter, "gross income" of estates or trusts means all income from whatever source derived in
21 the tax year, including but not limited to the following items:

22 (a) dividends;

23 (b) interest received or accrued, including interest received on obligations of another state or territory
24 or a county, municipality, district, or other political subdivision of the state, but excluding interest income from
25 obligations of:

26 (i) the United States government or the state of Montana;

27 (ii) a school district; or

28 (iii) a county, municipality, district, or other political subdivision of the state;

29 (c) income from partnerships and other fiduciaries;

30 (d) gross rents and royalties;

1 (e) gain from sale or exchange of property, including those gains that are excluded from gross income
2 for federal fiduciary income tax purposes by section 641(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (now deleted);

3 (f) gross profit from trade or business; and

4 (g) refunds recovered on federal income tax, to the extent that the deduction of the tax resulted in a
5 reduction of Montana income tax liability.

6 (2) In computing net income, there are allowed as deductions:

7 (a) interest expenses deductible for federal tax purposes according to section 163 of the Internal
8 Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. 163;

9 (b) taxes paid or accrued within the tax year, including but not limited to federal income tax, but
10 excluding Montana income tax;

11 (c) that fiduciary's portion of depreciation or depletion that is deductible for federal tax purposes
12 according to sections 167, 611, and 642 of the Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. 167, 611, and 642;

13 (d) charitable contributions that are deductible for federal tax purposes according to section 642(c) of
14 the Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. 642(c);

15 (e) administrative expenses claimed for federal income tax purposes, according to sections 212 and
16 642(g) of the Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. 212 and 642(g);

17 (f) losses from fire, storm, shipwreck, or other casualty or from theft, to the extent not compensated for
18 by insurance or otherwise, that are deductible for federal tax purposes according to section 165 of the Internal
19 Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. 165;

20 (g) net operating loss deductions allowed for federal income tax under section 642(d) of the Internal
21 Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. 642(d), except estates may not claim losses that are deductible on the decedent's
22 final return;

23 (h) Montana income tax refunds or tax refund credits.

24 (3) The following additional deductions are allowed in deriving taxable income of estates and trusts:

25 (a) any amount of income for the tax year currently required to be distributed to beneficiaries for the
26 year;

27 (b) any other amounts properly paid or credited or required to be distributed for the tax year.

28 (4) The exemption allowed for estates and trusts is that exemption provided in 15-30-112(2)(a) and ~~(6)~~
29 (7)."

1 **Section 4.** Section 15-30-142, MCA, is amended to read:

2 **"15-30-142. Returns and payment of tax -- penalty and interest -- refunds -- credits.** (1) For both
3 resident and nonresident taxpayers, each single individual and each married individual not filing a joint return
4 with a spouse and having a gross income for the tax year of more than \$3,560, as adjusted under the provisions
5 of subsection (7), and married individuals not filing separate returns and having a combined gross income for
6 the tax year of more than \$7,120, as adjusted under the provisions of subsection (7), are liable for a return to
7 be filed on forms and according to rules that the department may prescribe. The gross income amounts referred
8 to in the preceding sentence must be increased by \$1,900, as adjusted under the provisions of 15-30-112~~(6)~~(7),
9 for each additional personal exemption allowance that the taxpayer is entitled to claim for the taxpayer and the
10 taxpayer's spouse under 15-30-112(3) and (4).

11 (2) In accordance with instructions set forth by the department, each taxpayer who is married and living
12 with husband or wife and is required to file a return may, at the taxpayer's option, file a joint return with husband
13 or wife even though one of the spouses has neither gross income nor deductions. If a joint return is made, the
14 tax must be computed on the aggregate taxable income and the liability with respect to the tax is joint and
15 several. If a joint return has been filed for a tax year, the spouses may not file separate returns after the time for
16 filing the return of either has expired unless the department consents.

17 (3) If a taxpayer is unable to make the taxpayer's own return, the return must be made by an authorized
18 agent or by a guardian or other person charged with the care of the person or property of the taxpayer.

19 (4) All taxpayers, including but not limited to those subject to the provisions of 15-30-202 and 15-30-241,
20 shall compute the amount of income tax payable and shall, on or before the date required by this chapter for
21 filing a return, pay to the department any balance of income tax remaining unpaid after crediting the amount
22 withheld, as provided by 15-30-202, and any payment made by reason of an estimated tax return provided for
23 in 15-30-241. However, the tax computed must be greater by \$1 than the amount withheld and paid by estimated
24 return as provided in this chapter. If the amount of tax withheld and the payment of estimated tax exceed by
25 more than \$1 the amount of income tax as computed, the taxpayer is entitled to a refund of the excess.

26 (5) As soon as practicable after the return is filed, the department shall examine and verify the tax.

27 (6) If the amount of tax as verified is greater than the amount paid, the excess must be paid by the
28 taxpayer to the department within 60 days after notice of the amount of the tax as computed, with interest added
29 as provided in 15-1-216. In that case, there may not be a penalty because of the understatement if the deficiency
30 is paid within 60 days after the first notice of the amount is mailed to the taxpayer.

1 (7) By November 1 of each year, the department shall multiply the minimum amount of gross income
2 necessitating the filing of a return by the inflation factor for the tax year. These adjusted amounts are effective
3 for that tax year, and persons who have gross incomes less than these adjusted amounts are not required to
4 file a return.

5 (8) Individual income tax forms distributed by the department for each tax year must contain instructions
6 and tables based on the adjusted base year structure for that tax year."

7
8 NEW SECTION. **Section 5. Effective date.** [This act] is effective on passage and approval.

9
10 NEW SECTION. **Section 6. Retroactive applicability.** [This act] applies retroactively, within the
11 meaning of 1-2-109, to tax years beginning after December 31, 2004.

12 - END -